is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters in the Service Area within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of Distrtict Headquarters/ towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for 100% coverage of the Service Area. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited have intimated that they are providing CMTS in all the District Headquarters of Uttaranchal State.

(b) Apart from the District Headquarters/Cities/Towns covered with CMTS by the CMTS Licensees, incidental coverage of CMTS is also possible in various areas. As such it is not possible to state the exact percentage of the total area in the State covered with CMTS.

(c) and (d) The following three companies have been licensed to provide CMTS in Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle Service Area, which *inter-alia* covers Uttaranchal State:

SI. No.	Name of Company
1.	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.
2.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
3.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in terms of TRAI Act is, *inter-alia* mandated for ensuring Quality of Service (QoS) provided by the various licensed Telecom Service Providers including CMTS Licensees. As intimated by TRAI, these Licensees are not meeting some of the parameters of QoS Standard laid down by TRAI. These Operators have been asked to improve the performance. The improvement in performance is monitored periodically by TRAI.

Printing of telephone directory

†2581. SHRl HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain fixed standards for inviting tenders for printing of the telephone directory;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the experience certificate of the tenderer is. suficient in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the fact that in the Meerut region of the Sanchar Nigam added their own conditions in the tender to benefit a particular tenderer; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The experience of the bidder is one of the criteria along with other parameters to establish the eligibility of the bidders.

(c) No such conditions have been added by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) exclusively for Meerut region.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Loss to MTNL

2582. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL has suffered 48 per cent dip in its net profit for the year ended on the 31 st March, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to control the loss;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite this decline in net profit, the Company has recommended tax free 45 per cent divided; and

(d) whether the Company has a dip in their.subscribers base; if so, the action plan to arrest this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) :(a) The net profit of MTNL during the year 2002-2003 after tax is Rs. 877.1 crores which is 32% less than net profit in previous year(Rs. 1300.6 crores).